



Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Robert W. Swanson, Director

News Release

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Focus: HOPE in Detroit Receives Cool Cities “Neighborhoods in Progress” Designation

October 12, 2006 – Robert W. Swanson, director of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG), recently announced that Focus: HOPE in Detroit has been selected as a Cool Cities “Neighborhoods in Progress” designee.

The Catalyst project will change the face of a very important corner in our community, making it a focal point of activity, and a place with the potential for activity during both the day and the evening.

The Catalyst Project will provide new housing, new retail, and a new outdoor interactive environment, as well as serving as the springboard for future redevelopment of this portion of Detroit and Highland Park.

The Cool Cities Program is part of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm’s economic plan to help revitalize Michigan’s cities by retaining and attracting the jobs and people critical to the emerging economies of the 21st century. The program is funded by redirecting existing resources in state government.

This year, sixteen projects have received the Cool Cities “Neighborhoods in Progress” designation and priority access to “tool box” items. Twelve of the 16 will also receive the catalyst grant of \$100,000. The 12 projects receiving the Cool Cities “Neighborhoods in Progress” and catalyst grant are located in Benton Harbor, Detroit (3), Flint, Grand Rapids, Howell, Ionia, Lansing, Mount Clemens, Muskegon, and Pontiac. The four projects that received the Cool Cities designation and priority access to state resources, without the \$100,000 catalyst funding are: Adrian, Cadillac, Dearborn and Saginaw.

“We had the funding available for 12 Neighborhoods in Progress, however we received 16 outstanding for proposals. As a result, we opted to add Adrian, Dearborn, Cadillac, and Saginaw projects as Cool Cities designees to assist their projects with the resources we have available including priority access and technical assistance,” said Department of Labor & Economic Growth Director Robert W. Swanson. “We’ve learned from past Cool Cities projects that just the designation alone gives them an opportunity to leverage significant investment into their communities.”

Department of Labor & Economic Growth director Robert W. Swanson (left) presents a sign designating Focus: HOPE as a Cool Cities Neighborhood in Progress.



Pictured left to right:
Ryan Dinkgrave, Kelsey
Johnson, Laura Bozgo,
Shakirz Smiler, Kathy
Moran, Keith Cooley,
Mary Simpson, Brandy
Holmes, Deene
Marshall, Tracey Hall
and Patrica Carter

